

Glencoe & Glen Etive Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday 1st December 2015, 7-30pm held in St Mary's Church Hall

Councillors Present

Alister Sutherland (Chair)
Gwen MacTaggart (Secretary)
Ganes Dunlop (Treasurer)
Simon Meldrum
Victoria Sutherland

Highland Council Representative

Councillor Bren Gormley

Residents Present

David Smith
Donald Stewart

Broadband

Glencoe is served by the Ballachulish exchange, which is now delivering Next Generation Broadband. But while the cabinet serving Ballachulish village was upgraded in December 2014, the cabinet serving Glencoe village has still not been upgraded. This leads to a concern that in making the exchange live and providing service to some subscribers, a box has been ticked, and that rollout to other areas served by the exchange is not a priority. Councillor Gormley described this as a common complaint. We have, however, been assured that the village is included in the 'First Phase' plans, for completion by the end of 2016.

VS raised the properties too far from the Glencoe cabinet to receive Next Generation Broadband once the service goes live. Residents and visitors are frustrated at broadband too limited even to support basic services. She has been in contact with people from the successful Locheilnet project, and raised the possibility the TV retransmission mast could be used to deliver a service. It is also worth noting that the UK government has recently committed to ['giving everyone a legal right to request a 10 Mbps connection by end of this Parliament \[2020\]'](#).

Highland-wide Local Development Plan

The CC discussed affordable housing options. Forestry Commission Scotland has previously indicated that they would consider making land on the old road available. The area designated in the current plan is the field by the Primary School, but there are concerns this could be subject to flooding.

The Community Council has until 29th January to make a submission.

Councillor Gormley left the meeting after discussion of these two items.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Proposed GMT, seconded SM.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

None.

Finance

David Smith handed over as Treasurer to Ganes Dunlop. The bank balance stands at £1,112.46.

Planning

Application from Ian Boyle, land east of Mamore Cottage next to the War Memorial. No objections.

GMT noted an application from Glencoe House to convert the stable block (former ambulance station) to suites, but this has not yet appeared on the Weekly Planning List.

Open Forum

Donald Stewart had spoken to Nicky Turner, Lead Nursing Manager – the relocation of nurses to Fort William to which the CC had objected has been reversed.

It was noted that payment for 4 nursing beds at Abbeyfield, a condition of closing Glencoe Hospital, had been stopped in April. It was requested that this be raised with the Highland Health Board. It was also requested that surgery hours at Ballachulish and blood test logistics be raised.

Glencoe Trademark

Scott McCombie wrote again to the CC regarding the NTS's 'Glencoe' trademark application. Now that this process has been set in motion, the feeling of the CC was broadly supportive with a view to protecting the Glencoe name from future exploitation and preventing the acquisition of the trademark by a less desirable organisation, although there was some discussion of whether the trademark application could instead have been pursued by a community body. Concerns from existing users of the Glencoe name appear unwarranted as these users have accrued 'prior rights'. Additionally the NTS has made it clear that they will not interfere with future use by local businesses. AS suggested a formal partnership between the NTS and the community, such as a trust, that would ensure community participation in the exercise and benefits of the rights to the name of the place in which we live.

20 mph Speed Awareness Lights

In progress. Thomas Janzen has contacted Allan Bryce and we are awaiting an update.

Meetings Attended by Councillors

AS attended a Transport Forum meeting, which was dominated by complaints about reductions in Citylink's Fort William to Inverness service.

The CC discussed transport issues. A suggestion was made that the South Lochaber minibus in Kinlochleven, which has disabled access, operate a circular route via Glencoe.

The CC is to write to Stagecoach requesting cycle facilities on all services.

Correspondence Received

None.

Community Company

AS to meet with Gabriel English of MNVI regarding the Hydro development.

Poppy Appeal

The CC will organize help with next year's collection.

AOCB

1. Car park flooding – Refuse collectors should be clearing the drain. AS to contact tech services.
2. David Smith advised that the old road in Tighphuirst has been left in a poor condition after resurfacing.
3. AS congratulated Ballachulish on an excellent firework display.
4. VS told the CC that Discover Glencoe was planning a Glencoe Autumn Festival (21st – 30th October), and invited suggestions.
5. GMT proposed the usual donation of £100 towards the Glencoe senior citizens Christmas dinner.
6. GMT asked for help with planting the tubs next year.
7. GMT is organizing the village Christmas tree and volunteers to light it.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

7-30pm on Tuesday 19th January.